

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 039928
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY IO/UNA:JFTEFFT

S/S-O:KDROBINSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 3379

S E C R E T STATE 039928

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 2075 ACTION STATE INFO CAIRO JIDDA
WHITE HOUSE FEB 14.

QUOTE S E C R E T TEL AVIV 2075

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IS, EG, SA, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON AIRCRAFT SALES AND SECRETARY'S
ANNOUNCEMENT

REF: A) STATE 38204, B) STATE 38203

1. I RECEIVED REFTELS PARTWAY THROUGH MY PREVIOUSLY
SCHEDULED PRIVATE MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN
THIS MORNING, FEBRUARY 14, AND WAS THEREFORE ABLE TO
GIVE HIM IMMEDIATELY AN ADVANCE COPY OF THE SECRETARY'S
SECRET

SECRET

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ANNOUNCEMENT CONTAINED IN REF B. I CAUTIONED HIM TO
MAKE NO REFERENCE PUBLICLY TO THIS SUBJECT UNTIL AFTER
THE ANNOUNCEMENT TAKES PLACE IN WASHINGTON AND HE ASSURED
ME HE WOULD NOT DO SO.

2. I THEN WENT CAREFULLY THROUGH THE TALKING POINTS IN REF A,
READING SLOWLY FROM THEM AND EXPLAINING SOME OF THE

TECHNICAL DETAILS OF THE CONTRACTING PROCEDURE TO MAKE SURE HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DELAY IN DELIVERIES RESULTING FROM THE SPLITTING OF THE LETTERS OF OFFER. BEGIN WAS CLEARLY VERY DISAPPOINTED IN THE DECISIONS, BUT DID NO MORE THAN ASK A FEW QUESTIONS TO CLARIFY THE RATIONALE FOR THE DECISIONS. HE SAID HE WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS THE DECISIONS WITH WEIZMAN BEFORE SAYING ANYTHING FURTHER.

3. THE ONE CLEAR QUESTION HE SEEMED MOST TROUBLED ABOUT WAS THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO SUPPLY AIRCRAFT TO ISRAEL UNDER THE 1975 SINAI II AGREEMENT AND THIS DECISION TO COUPLE ISRAEL'S AIRCRAFT REQUIREMENTS TO THOSE OF SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT. I PREDICE WE WILL BE HEARING MORE ON THIS SUBJECT FROM THE ISRAELIS AFTER THEY HAVE DIGESTED THE PRESIDENT'S DECISIONS.

4. SINCE BEGIN AND I WERE ALONE WITHOUT A NOTE TAKER, I LEFT HIM A COPY OF THE TALKING POINTS IN REF A SO THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO SHARE THEM ACCURATELY WITH HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES. LEWIS UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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